

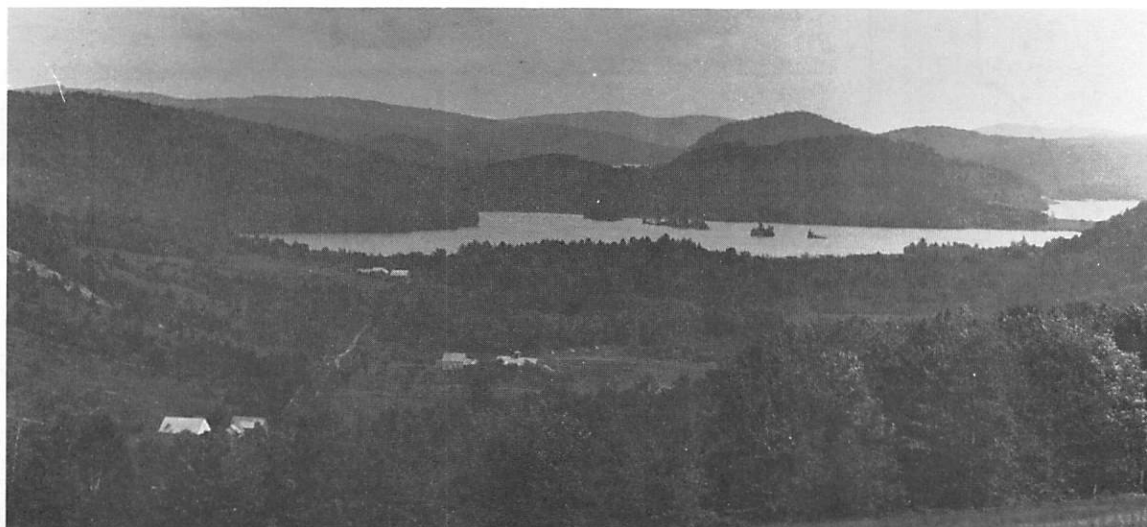


The Bethel Courier.

Volume VI, Number 3

Fall, 1982

Bethel Historical Society



View from Bird Hill, Nettie Maxim photograph, c. 1905, courtesy of Blaine A. Mills.

BIRD HILL

by Blaine A. Mills

AUTHOR'S NOTE: My only objective in assembling this sketch on Bird Hill is to correct a few errors made by the late Eva Bean in her book *East Bethel Road*, published in 1959. Eva did a good job but made some mistakes, especially on the locations of the Berry homes. After her death, an article in the *Oxford Democrat* was discovered, written in 1885 about Bird Hill by Dr. William Berry Lapham who grew up on the Hill. His father was John Lapham and his maternal grandfather was Levi Berry, the first settler. Dr. Lapham also made a few mistakes: he left out locations No. 4 and No. 11 (see map) in his article. Either he forgot or they were built after he moved from the Hill.

For references I have used Lapham's Bird Hill article in the *Oxford Democrat* (1885), his *History of Bethel* (1891), Eva Bean's *East Bethel Road* and Ruby Emery's *Hamlin's Gore 1816-1973*. I have also interviewed the Maxim, Jordan, Packard and Day families.

I have no idea when the early roads were built. The last one however built on the Hill was into Lockes Mills around 1900.

Bird Hill, once called Berry Hill, was later named for three brothers: John, Lyman and Samuel Bird.

#1 Abraham Bryant first settled here. The house was originally set back in the pasture. After Abraham died his son, Benjamin took over the place. Benjamin moved the house from the back pasture to its last location around 1865-70. He also built the one and a half story addition. Josiah George was the next owner. George ran a summer boarding house and called it "Mid Mountain Farm." His daughter, Serena and her hus-

band, Jack Kimball next owned the place and rented half of the house to Lewis and Winnie Maxim Merrill. The last owner to live here was Rev. Frank Buck who died in the late 1940's. P. H. Chadbourne and Co. now owns the land. The house stood until the late 1950's when the cellar hole was filled in. I think the original cellar hole has also been filled in.

#2 John Knight was the first settler here. Richard Jordan (son of Abraham) lived here next and built new buildings. Jordan sold to John Chase of Paris. John's son, Jacob took over the place and was the last family to occupy the farm. Howard Maxim purchased the property from the Chase heirs and used it as a boarding place for berry pickers. The last school ever held on Bird Hill was in this house in the winter of 1904. The teacher was Alma Swan (LaFayette) and the students were Earle Maxim, Walter Maxim, Winifred Maxim, Grover Thomas, and Alice Buck. The Maxim family left Bird Hill around 1920 and to my knowledge no one ever lived or boarded here again. The place was nearly down by 1960 and all that is visible today is the cellar hole.

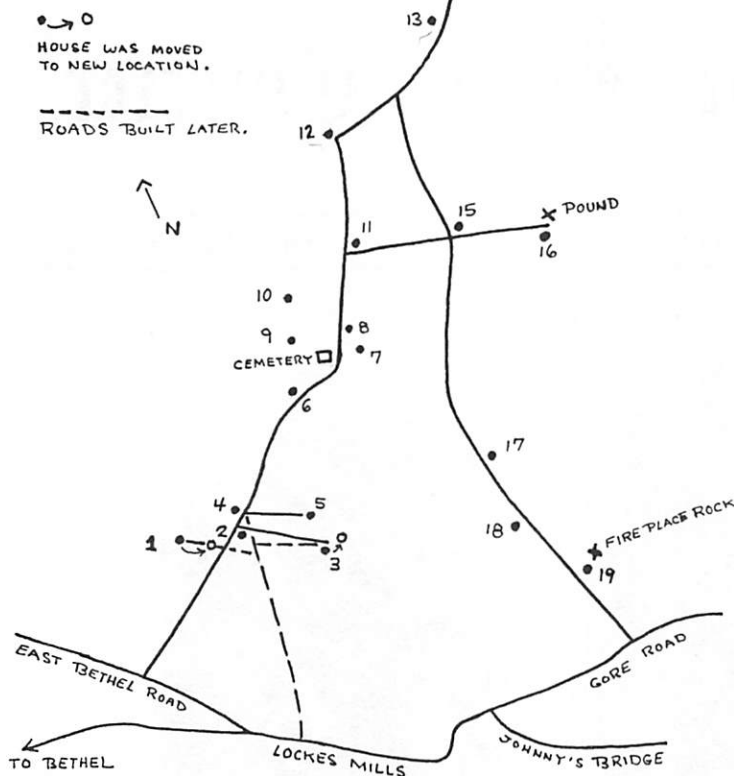
#3 Abraham Jordan first cleared this farm. After his death, his son John lived here. John Jordan sold to Moses Cummings

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1983 BETHEL HISTORICAL
SOCIETY CALENDARS
\$3 EACH

PLEASE ADD 75¢ FOR EACH
CALENDAR TO BE MAILED.

BIRD HILL 1858



MAP COURTESY OF
BLAINE A. MILLS

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Donald G. Bennett, President; Alden Kennett, Vice President; Mary C. Keniston, Secretary; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Treasurer; Trustees: Edith Eaton Eddy, Helen Morton, Catherine Newell, Ronald Snyder, Willard Wight

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Ernest Holt, Hanover, has been active in the Society since its founding and a generous donor.

Donald and Mary Calderwood, Mesa, Arizona. Mrs. Calderwood is the sister of the late Faye Taylor and a graduate of Gould Academy.

Roxanne Twitchell Sly, Brooklin, Maine. Mrs. Sly, a generous donor to the Society, is a descendant of Eleazor Twitchell, usually considered the first settler of Bethel Hill.

Charles and Edith Seashore, Bethel. Mr. & Mrs. Seashore own the former summer home of William Bingham II, Broad Street Historic District.

(Continued From Page 1)

who moved the house up from the pasture around 1870 to its last location. Around 1893-94 Moses' son-in-law, Howard Maxim took over the farm and built an upper story on the old house.

He later built a story and a half on the west end of the old house. Around 1904, Howard razed the old barn and built singlehandedly a new one. Moses and his wife lived upstairs until their deaths. Howard and Nettie Cummings Maxim operated a large berry operation here, raising blackberries and raspberries. During the berry season pickers were boarded here and at #2 (the John Knight place) which the Maxims had purchased. The berries were hauled by horse and team to the Lockes Mills railroad station where they were loaded on waiting freight cars. Pickers from Lockes Mills also rode back and forth on the team. After the Maxims there were several owners. Later Benjamin Warner purchased the farm. His son and daughter-in-law ran a Bible school here in the late 1940's. The next and last owner to live here was Philip King. The cellar hole is visible today and I think the land is owned by a lumber company.

#4 Charles Bryant took over part of his father's (Abraham) farm (#1) and built this place. Charles' brother Ephraim next owned the place. Ephraim sold to Frank Proctor who in turn sold to George Bluing. Walter Maxim, son of Howard, was the last one to live here. He moved away June 1, 1933 and to my knowledge no one ever lived here again. The house stood until the late 1950's. The cellar hole can be seen today and I believe the land is owned by a lumber company.

#5 Richard Jordan, son of Abraham, sold his farm (#2) to John Chase and built a new house on part of his father's farm (#3). This farm has never left the Jordan family. After Richard died, his son Charles took it over. When Charles Jordan died in 1953 his daughter, Bertha and her husband, George Flanders took over the farm. In the fall of 1953, George, Bertha and her mother moved to Lockes Mills for the winter. From this time on they stayed on the farm only on weekends and during the summer. On May 1, 1964 a grass fire got away and completely burned this farm. The cellar hole is still visible. Bertha Jordan Flanders owns the land today.

#6 Eli Cushman cleared the land, built up a good farm and lived out his life here. His son-in-law, Ranson Cummings (brother of Moses) took over the farm. Frank Vetquosky, a Polish immigrant, was the next owner followed by his son Joseph. Joseph Vetquosky sold to John L. Porter around 1962. Porter used the place for a weekend retreat. He sold to the present owner, Mike Kaplan. This house is the only original one left standing on Bird Hill and is largely unchanged except for the fact that the barn is now gone.

#7 Levi Berry of Paris settled here in 1820 and was the first settler on Bird Hill. Prior to 1835 however, he returned to Paris, having sold his farm to Lyman Bird. After Bird left I think the place went unattended and the buildings fell in. The cellar hole could still be seen in the 1870's. Charles Jordan later owned the land and filled in the cellar hole.

#8 The school house was built between 1822 and 1832. It was closed by 1890 and the building was used as a tool shed. Later it was moved by Charles Jordan to #5 and continued to house tools.

#9 Levi Berry Jr. settled here. By 1835, however, he had returned to Paris. I have no other information about this place except someone told me this building was moved to #3 and served as a shed. This cellar hole is still visible; in fact a new camp has been built over it.

#10 William Berry, son of Levi, settled here before returning to Paris prior to 1835. Next came John Bird, brother of Lyman and Samuel. After Bird, Eli Estes may have been the last occupant. I have no idea what happened to this place. To date I can find no trace of a cellar hole.

#11 Jarius Bryant, son of Abraham, settled here. Later his brother, Ephraim, owned the place. After Ephraim, his son Azel lived here. Next Mrs. Mansfield M. Brown owned the place. She married Josiah George (#1) and moved to his "Mid Mountain Farm." They moved back here for the winters. Not long after this, they moved to Milton. I don't know who bought this farm from the Georges but the last owner to live here was Harry Packard. By 1945, the place was vacant and it burned about 1965. Part of the cellar hole can be seen today. Robert Coolidge of Lockes Mills owns the land at this time.

#12 Eli Estes settled here and died of cancer. His family later sold to Ethan Etheridge who sold to Weymouth Hortham. Hortham was the last to occupy the place. The buildings had fallen in by the mid 1940's. This cellar hole is still visible today.

#13 John Estes was the first settler on Kimball Hill (1845). Next came John Buck and later Amos Buck who moved to Bryant Pond. I have no more information on this place. (Actually numbers 13 and 14 were on Kimball Hill but Eva Bean included them on her map as she did numbers 17, 18 and 19 which are not on the hill.)

#14 Daniel Estes, brother of Eli, settled here. Other owners were Nathan Hall, J. Hall and J. Gray, and James Mayconnell.

#15 Leonard Berry, son of Levi first settled here. William Berry Lapham ("Index") states that he saw the barn raised here in 1833. Berry removed to Paris prior to 1835. The next owners were: Peter Ayer, Daniel Dunn, Daniel Dunn Jr., and Rachel Thomas. Prentiss Thomas, son of Rachel, was the last to live here. Over the years the buildings fell down. The cellar hole is still visible. Edward L. Mills owns the land today.

#16 John Lapham settled here. He was the son-in-law of Levi Berry. His son William Berry Lapham ("Index") grew up here. Lapham had returned to Paris or Woodstock by 1835. The next owner was Samuel Bird, brother of Lyman and John. Samuel's son, William Wallace lived here next. After the Birds came the following owners: Perry Farrington, Amos Buck, Charles Buck, and Orrington Pingree. Raleigh Corson came here from the West and lived on this farm with his mother. I believe they were the last ones to live here for this place was still standing by 1910. Soon after this it was abandoned and the cellar hole is all that can be seen today along with the remains of an old cattle pound on the other side of the road. Sometime in the late nineteenth century Frank Carpenter lived here but I don't know how he fits in with the other owners. He called the place "The Great Eastern Stock Farm."

#17 Hiram Fifield, son of Eldbridge, first settled here. Next came John Fifield, son of Hiram. I think the last owner to occupy this farm was Charles Day. It fell in over the years and the cellar hole is still visible today. I think the house was standing well into the 1950's.

#18 Elbridge Fifield first settled here. Other owners were Newton David Blake, and Azel Bryant, son of Ephraim. I believe Azel was about the last to live here. This place burned and some think Joseph Stevens later built a small house here. The last house fell down over the years but stood here until the 1960's.

#19 This place lies in Woodstock and was part of Lot Number Nine on Hamlin's Gore. Jonathan T. Clifford first settled on Lot Number Nine in 1817. He built a cabin on the shore of the

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Since the last issue of the "Courier", we have moved a step closer towards seeing our museum receive national accreditation. In my opinion, such a step is another significant indication of how the Moses Mason Museum has grown from merely a restored Broad Street house to a dynamic, professional institution. And let's not be overly humble because these are steps in which we can be collectively proud.

One of the numerous stepping stones to museum growth is its long range plan. In the four part wheel of dream-plan-reality-maintenance, we have much to consider in the range of possibilities for museum development. There are many aspects of local history that are as yet undeveloped into the form of museum exhibits; some of these are: antique power and automobiles; farming, logging, shop keeping, milling, communications and telephones, school houses and teaching, building crafts, wood turning and dowel machines, machine making, medicine, rail-roading, individual family histories, textile production, local politics and social organizations as well as the graphic and performing arts.

If we were to devote only one room to each of these categories of historical interest as a separate museum activity, then we would need another twenty five or more rooms to accommodate exhibit space, records, administration and maintenance. (Even now we need space for a museum photo lab and workshop). This means that in the 1980's we could profitably organize two additional properties (house, barn, stable, and out buildings) similar in size to the Moses Mason house, into museum annexes.

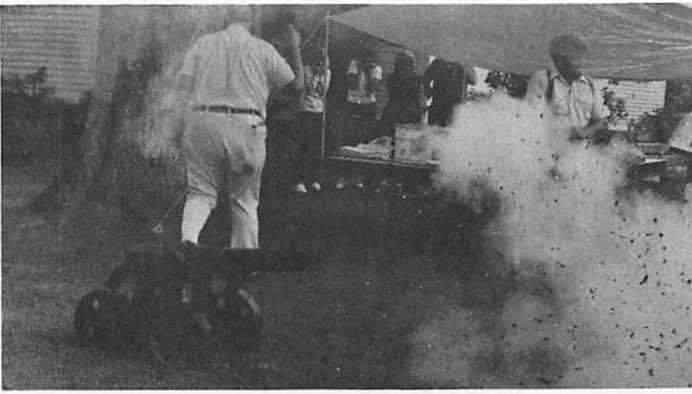
In my visualization of how another set of buildings in Bethel might be arranged for museum use, I see a barn with a display of early automobiles, our snow roller and horse drawn equipment. Instead of the house being arranged like the Moses Mason house, different rooms could be used to portray the life of a prominent Bethel family, the tools and interior arrangement of a typical 19th century wood working shop, a one room school house and early school books with honor roll of teachers, a display of wood turning machinery so familiar to generations of Bethel families and a replica of one of our early telephone offices - central switch board and phones. Finally, another building would provide much needed work and storage space as exhibits were being prepared and collections organized. And for those concerned with heating expenses, probably museum annexes would not be opened during the winter months so heating expenses would not be a major factor at this stage.

With these kind of thoughts in mind, I believe that during the remainder of the 1980's we should look for opportunities to acquire suitable existing buildings which the Society might receive through bequests or through other means (grants, etc.), capable of supporting our museum's functions in an ever widening circle of historical interests.

Donald G. Bennett

pond. In 1819 Clifford sold to George Cummings. Cummings built a place not far from the Clifford cabin. In 1820 Cummings sold Lot Number Nine to his father Isaac. Isaac or his son, Joseph were the first to settle on the west side of Lot Number

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Cannon Volley



Hayride Anyone?



Ice Cream Eating Contest



The Making of an Instant Ancestor?

HUNDREDS ENJOY SUDBURY CANADA DAYS AUGUST 14-15

Hundreds of enthusiastic people flocked to the Moses Mason Museum and its grounds for the third annual Sudbury Canada Days held on August 14-15. The theme of the two day event was "Old Time Pastimes" selected to focus on the heritage of the last two hundred years with a wide variety of events. Bethel was known as Sudbury Canada from 1768 to 1796 since soldiers from Sudbury, Massachusetts had been granted land in the wilds of Maine by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for service in the campaign to conquer Canada in 1690. The name identifies the name of the town in Massachusetts from which they came and the military exploit in which they participated.

Kicking off events was the firing of a cannon by John B. Head, Society Life Member. Following this introduction the flower show opened with over seventy exhibits in the Dr. Moses Mason House and adjoining meeting room. This was arranged by Barbara Herrick Brown and Gertrude Hutchins. Also beginning at this time were craft exhibitors/demonstrators: Robert Grover, stained glass; Jane Grover, spinning; Hutchinson Bros., instant ancestor photographs; Grace Buck, huck weaving; Albert Skillings/Timothy Korhonen, blacksmithing; Marjorie Cummings, hooking; Agnes Haines/Nancy Mercer, chair caning; Floribel Haines, knitting; Cathy Newell/Agnes Haines, basketmaking; Ruth Wight, quilting; Pat Bennett, quilting; Jean Bass, weaving. Also beginning at this time were old-time hay rides, and the historical film series ("Quilts and Women's Lives", "Ghosts of Cape Horn", etc.) handled by Randall H. Bennett. The horse-shoe pitching tournament also got underway with Ernest Perkins and Earlon Keniston in charge beside the barn of James and Consuelo Alger who also provided the trophies for the event. Winners of the competition were Mike Roberts, single and Art Henley and Mike Roberts, doubles, of Lockes Mills.

One hour later the ice cream eating contest supervised by Life Members Gordon and Mary Gillies was held and won by Raymond Walley of Bethel. A drawing for a door prize of an instant ancestor photograph from Hutchinson Bros. of Bridgton was won by Rachael Williams.

As evening approached, visitors were treated to the Log Driver's Bean Supper handled by the Special Projects Committee of the Society headed by Carolyn Brooks. This was held on the lawn of the Moses Mason House as was the following event, the variety show. Society President Donald G. Bennett served as Master of Ceremonies of the event which featured a performance of a barbershop group "The Hillsmen" arranged by Stan Fox, a drum solo by Jeff Hastings and a piano sing along with Edward (Ned) H. Hastings. Both Jeff and Ned Hastings are descendants of Amos Hastings who first came to Sudbury Canada during the American Revolution.

Sunday's events included an Old-Fashioned Church Service at the West Parish Congregational Church featuring a Cotton Mather message read by Rev. Brendon Bass with hymns specifically selected to reflect Bethel's Puritan heritage. The children's parade followed in the afternoon and was judged by Margaret Davis, Norman Clanton and "Dee Dee" Kellogg in four categories based on the theme "Characters from Children's Stories." First prize for the prettiest was "Heidi" portrayed by Marlies Ouwinga, second prize "Cinderella" won by Heidi Davidson and third prize for "Alice in Wonderland" went to Martha Newell. Prizes for the most authentic went to the Coolidge Family for "Little Red Riding Hood," first prize, second prize Debby MacDormand for "Little Miss Muffet" and third prize Rachael Williams for "Little Bo-Peep". In the Judges' choice category, "Mary Pop-

pins" played by Leah Bonnema took top honors, with "Dick and Jane" portrayed by Dustin and Mandy Sysko second prize and "The Pieman" by Vaughan Gilan taking third prize. Funniest honors went to "Pinocchio and Jiminy Cricket" portrayed by Rebekah Brown and Jenena Yates, followed by "Bozo and Peter Rabbitt" played by Clint and Cheir Meyers and the Coolidge family as "Little Red Riding Hood." First prize was a special trophy with ribbons awarded for second and third honors. The croquet tournament supervised by Arthur Cummings and Walter Scott was won by Alec Newell and Raymond Walley of Bethel. These trophies were also donated by James and Consuelo Alger. An art show of local artists was featured both days under the supervision of Society Trustee Helen Morton.

Much gratitude is expressed to all who made the event such a success including the many people who contributed flower exhibits and food for the supper, also to Ruel Swain for the use of his trailer, to Ned Hastings, Jeff Hastings and the "Hillsmen" for contributing their musical talents, to all who demonstrated their crafts, to Norris Brown for cooking the beans, to John Head for the use of his cannon and to Telstar Regional High School for the use of the public address system.

Sudbury Canada Days photographs courtesy of Donald G. Bennett.



Horseshoe Pitching



Spinning Demonstration — Jane Grover



Flower Show



Variety Show



Art Show



Children's Parade

Nine. Either Isaac or Joseph built a cabin up against a large rock. The rock served as one end of the cabin plus the back of the fireplace and chimney (Fire Place Rock). There is a good chance that Isaac may have built this cabin. He purchased the lot in September and may have been anxious to get under cover before winter. Either he or Joseph soon moved down the hill and built a farm. Joseph lived here until he moved to Poland. Joseph's son, Nathan sold the farm in 1872 to Horatio Houghton. In 1878 Nathan Cummings bought back the farm, selling it again in 1904 to Howard Maxim. Maxim sold it in 1909 to Clarence Lapham who the following year sold it to Prentice Thomas. Thomas sold it in 1922 to Azel Bryant, son of Ephraim. In 1936 Ruby Huston and her son Gerald came to care for Azel who died in 1941. That same year Azel's son Ordell sold the place to Ruby Huston. About 1970 Maurice Prince purchased it from Ruby Huston. Prince rented the place to George Day and Alan Russo. On May 9, 1973 the buildings caught fire and burned to the ground. Maurice Prince now has a new house on this site.

"BIRD HILL"

A correspondent of the *Democrat* recently spoke of "Bird Hill," and suggested that the name should be changed to Bryant Hill, as the Birds have gone away. This suggestion set me to thinking of the changes on this Hill since I lived there half a century ago. The old schoolhouse where I first went to school in 1832, is still standing, and this is about the only thing that remains essentially unchanged. It was in the same house that I taught my first school 35 years ago. In 1832, I well remember that Eliza Walker taught the school, and also for two or three successive seasons thereafter. She was a pious woman and an excellent teacher, and when she died, which was in 1834, I thought there could be no more school, for I had never learned of any other teacher and supposed there was none.

Bird Hill was previously called Berry Hill, and Levi Berry from Paris was the first settler in the neighborhood. He felled his first trees in 1820, near where the schoolhouse now stands. His log house stood a little below and east of the schoolhouse, the old cellar hole of which could be seen a few years ago with tansy, catnip, and peppermint growing around it. His son, Levi Berry, Jr., lived on the opposite side of the road, his son, William, on the place afterwards occupied by John Bird, and his son Leonard, on the place since occupied by Daniel Dunn. John Lapham who had married a daughter of Levi Berry, lived on the place where Samuel Bird afterwards lived. So there were five Berry families living on the Hill within a radius of half a mile, and it was appropriately called Berry Hill. But the Berrys did not remain long, and prior to 1835, all had returned to Paris. Deacon John Bird bought the William Berry place, Lyman Bird the Levi Berry farm, and Samuel Bird the John Lapham place. Thereafter the neighborhood was called Bird Hill. The three brother Birds were the sons of John Bird of Norway, and all are dead. I well remember a mistake made by the good Elder Witham of Paris, which brought a smile to the faces of his audience. He had preached at Lockes Mills, and when he finished, he gave notice that a meeting would be held in the evening at "Partridge Hill," at the school house near "Lyman Bird," but the audience smiled as stated, and had a good laugh at his expense after the meeting was over, in which he heartily joined.

Beyond the John Bird place, lived Eli Estes, a worthy man with a very pleasant family. He died many years ago of cancer, and the place has since had many owners. I think it now forms a

part of the Bonanza Stock Farm of Mr. Carpenter, who has lately distinguished himself in that region. The next place along the same road was the John Estes place. He was the father of Rev. Dr. Estes. A little farther along was the Daniel Estes place. Daniel Estes was a brother of Eli, and they were the sons of Richard Estes, who lived on the river road below Bean's Corner. But these two last mentioned places were on the northerly slope of Bird Hill, which at that time was called Kimball Hill.

Next south of the Lyman Bird place was Eli Cushman's farm. He began here in the woods and spent his whole life here. His widow still occupies the place. Abraham Jordan lived a short distance east of the road on the place where his son John afterwards lived, and still later, Moses Cummings. Deacon Abraham Bryant's place was west of the town road, and his house was also reached by a private way. Some 40 years ago, Richard Jordan took the farm on which John B. Knight had made a beginning. He built good buildings, and afterwards sold out to John Chase from Paris. I think Mr. Chase's son still lives there. Richard Jordan afterwards built upon a part of his father's old farm. Peter Ayers bought the Leonard Berry place; he afterwards went to Pennsylvania and died there. I saw the barn raised which is still standing on this farm; it was fifty-two years ago. The place was afterwards bought and occupied by Daniel Dunn from Paris, and later by his son, Daniel, Jr.; both died here, and also their wives.

How well I remember some of the teachers who kept the school here. Eliza Walker of blessed memory was the first. She was a sister of James Walker of Walker's Mills. She was followed by Sally Ballard. The first male teacher whose school I attended, was Charles A. Kimball, who still as then, resides in Rumford. Later along, the summer school was taught by the wife of Jedediah Kimball, whose maiden name was Richardson; by Nancy Andrews, who afterwards became the wife of Alonzo Howe. Emma Mason was a model teacher. She became the second wife of Dea. John Bird, and is still living. A daughter of Phineas Frost taught one or two terms here. The winter terms taught by Alden Chase of Woodstock, who always made the boys toe the line; by Gilman I. Blake, by Benj. M. Clark of Bethel, and for two terms by Rev. Benj. Dunham who was then settled over the Baptist Church in Bethel, and living at Middle Intervale. He always opened his school by prayer, and generally kept his eyes open and upon us boys during the services. I fear we needed watching. He died many years ago. Other teachers I do not so well remember.

The changes on the Berry or Bird Hill within fifty years are no greater than in almost every neighborhood in the town. On the road running parallel to the Bird Hill road, between Lockes Mills and the Androscoggin River, the changes within thirty years have been quite remarkable. Not an old settler is left, and most of the farms have passed out of the families. A generation has grown up who knows not from personal knowledge that such persons as Solomon Annas, Thomas Goss, Clark Kimball, James Lapham, James A. S. Bartlett, Eli Foster, Ebenezer Bartlett, Phineas Frost, Evi Needham and Enoch Stiles occupied the farms along this road in 1850 and a little earlier.

"All things change in this world, I ween,
Faces and faiths and friends and flowers;
Nothing is now as it once hath been,
For all things change, in this world of ours."
Index.

Augusta, May 24th, 1885.

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Index" was the well-known local historian William Berry Lapham (1828-1894) and this was originally published in the *Oxford Democrat*, June, 1885.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Blaine Mills has painstakingly provided readers of the "Courier" with some of the facts regarding a neglected region of Bethel. Bird Hill was largely a farming area, characterized by marginal hillside farms which were typical of many throughout Northern New England. As the nineteenth century wore on, changes became increasingly apparent in agriculture and economic conditions that adversely affected the survival of these units. Today almost nothing remains of this way of life as one searches this land, now returned to forest, for signs of its agricultural past. But historians are fortunate that Nettie Maxim with her camera captured the era prior to 1910. The Society is grateful to Mr. Mills for providing it with copies of so many of Mrs. Maxim's photographs which so well document this time and place.

SRH

NEW HONORARY MEMBERS

At the August 5, 1982 meeting of the Society three Charter Members of the Society were formally elected to Honorary Membership. An Honorary Member has traditionally been one of the senior members who has served the Society long and well. Previous to this action only three members, Pearl Ashby Tibbetts (1884-1982), Faye Sanborn Taylor (1908-1972) and Sidney W. Davidson (1894-1979) had been so honored. The three selected were: Nell Whitmore Valentine, Trustee (1970-72), long-time member of the Museum Committee, well-known for her quilting and other hand work at Society heritage events, generous donor and Life Member; Floribel Haines, Trustee (1974-77), head of the Furnishings Committee which set up the Moses Mason Museum in 1974, long-time member of the Museum Committee, guide at the Museum since its opening, exhibitor and teacher of the chair seating craft for the Society, and generous donor to the Museum; Elizabeth Mason Carter, Trustee Chairman (1970-73), head of Furnishings Committee, faithful and dedicated worker from antique show in 1966 to Bethel Homecoming events to antique exhibit at the Gould Field House during Indian Raid '81, instrumental in getting the Moses Mason House on the National Register, the first such property to be so designated in Oxford County, generous donor to the Society.

17th ANNUAL MEETING

Nearly seventy persons attended the seventeenth annual meeting of the Society held September 2 at the Moses Mason House. A bountiful pot luck supper preceded the business and program portions of the meeting, again ably handled by the Special Projects Committee. Attractive centerpieces for the tables were provided as usual by Barbara Herrick Brown.

The Nominating Committee consisting of Harry Kuzyk, Arlene Greenleaf Brown and E. Louise Lincoln presented the following slate which was unanimously accepted by those present: Donald G. Bennett, President; Alden Kennett, Vice President; Mary C. Keniston, Secretary; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Treasurer; Willard Wight, Trustee for Three Years. President Donald Bennett praised the work of E. Louise Lincoln who has served as Treasurer the past three years and will continue to be the Society's bookkeeper.

A special feature of the meeting was the presentation of Honorary Membership certificates to three of the Society long-time and most devoted members: Nell Valentine (accepted on her behalf by daughter Mary Valentine), Floribel Haines and Elizabeth Mason Carter.

"Artifacts of the Month" were announced by President Bennett as two oil paintings of Alphin Twitchell (1804-1886) and his wife Roxanna (1816-1892), (see photograph) the gift of Life Member Roxanne Twitchell Sly of Brooklin, Maine, a great granddaughter. They were believed to have been painted about 1835 by an artist who is at the moment unknown. The Twitchells lived in Mayville on the site of the present home of Life Members, Norman and Sylvia Clanton. According to Lapham's *History of Bethel*, Alphin Twitchell was "an active businessman, a farmer and dealer in cattle, often in town office, a good citizen and highly respected." He and his wife were the parents of seven children.

President Bennett reviewed the Society's progress during the past year: the addition of over seventy new members bringing the total to over 500, the completion of a Museum Assessment Program by a representative of the American Association of Museums, the continuation of the Oxford County Historic Resource Survey, very successful annual events (Heritage Day, Faye Taylor Memorial Art Show, Moses Mason Birthday Party, Sudbury Canada Days, Homecoming) and several fine donations to the museum including three paintings of Bethel figures (see photographs in this issue).

Join the Bethel Historical Society dedicated to preserving and interpreting the local past.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) free admission to the museum | (5) quarterly newsletter |
| (2) special discounts at museum store | (6) reduced course fees |
| (3) preferred rate for meeting room rental | (7) voting rights in the Society |
| (4) special library and archival privileges | (8) special invitations to Society occasions |

(Please Print)

Name

Address

Signature

Please check appropriate category and send your remittance to: Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217

-----Sustaining \$2.50 (Individual)

-----Contributing \$10.00

-----Patron \$25.00

-----Students (under 18 years) \$1.00

-----Life over 55 years \$50.00 single

-----Life over 55 years \$75.00 couple

-----Life under 55 years \$100.00 single

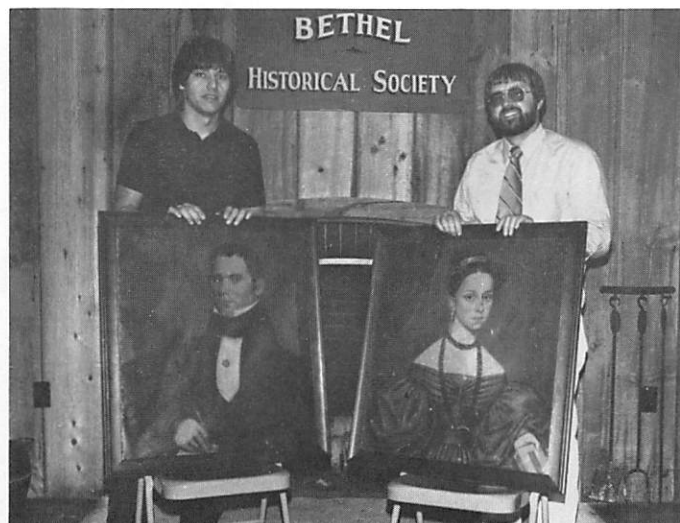
-----Life under 55 years \$150.00 couple

IN MEMORIAM

Died, September 8, 1982, Arthur Eldridge of Mystic, Connecticut, great grand-nephew of Dr. Moses Mason and a faithful reader of "The Courier." Mr. Eldridge spent part of his boyhood in Bethel and always held the town in high regard often writing his numerous memories in letters that are now preserved in the archives of the Society.

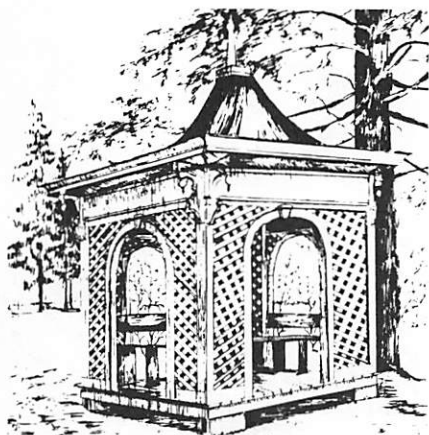
Died, August 30, 1982, Elizabeth Glines of Bethel, faithful member of the Society since its earliest beginnings and generous donor.

Died, September 25, 1982, Nell W. Valentine, Charter, Life and Honorary Member, Trustee, faithful Museum Committee member, well-known quilter and generous donor to the Society. Mrs. Valentine was also very active in the establishment of the Moses Mason Museum in 1974 and a frequent demonstrator of the art of quilting at numerous historical society special events.



Portraits of Alphin and Roxanna Twitchell are held by Randall H. Bennett (left) of the Society's Education and Research Committee and Society Director Stanley Howe. Photo courtesy of Donald S. Brown.

The Bethel Historical Society
P.O. Box 12
Bethel, Maine 04217



Summer House, Moses Mason Museum

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Bethel Historical Society President receives Dr. Mason portrait from Russell L. and Elsie Clark Carpenter of Winchester, Massachusetts. Photo courtesy of Donald S. Brown.

SOCIETY RECEIVES MASON PORTRAIT

An oil portrait, believed to be a copy of the Chester Harding portrait of Dr. Moses Mason was given to the Society earlier this year by Russell L. and Elsie Clark Carpenter of Winchester, Massachusetts. The portrait painted by R. P. Tolmand of Washington, D.C. in 1835 was formerly owned by Mrs. Carpenter's father, Edmund Clark who was the son of Edmund and Angelia Mason Clark. Angelia Mason Clark was the daughter of Aaron and Ruby Bartlett Mason of Bethel, Maine. When her husband died in Lagrow, Indiana, Angelia Mason Clark returned to Bethel with her four children and lived with her brother, Moses A. Mason, a nephew of Dr. Moses Mason. The painting remained in the family until this summer when the Carpenters presented it to the Society. The painting was further enhanced by careful care conservation work at the Williamstown Regional Art Conservation Laboratory before its arrival at the Moses Mason House, an additional gift provided by Mr. & Mrs. Carpenter. The Society is most grateful for this fine addition to its ever-growing collections.

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